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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended
Working Group on Finance
6-10 March 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. International policy environment and financial flows:

   (a) Changes in the external environment;

   (b) Trends in resource flows and debt;

   (c) The Bretton Woods institutions and the financing of sustainable development.

3. National policies and resource mobilization:

   (a) Applying economic instruments;

   (b) Improving the operation of national environmental funds;

   (c) Promoting the role of the private sector in the financing of sustainable development;

   (d) Aiming at international coordination of national sustainable development.

4. Innovative international mechanisms for resource mobilization.

5. Financing for sectoral and cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21.

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6. Matrix of policy options and instruments.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its first session, the Commission on Sustainable Development decided to establish an inter-sessional, ad hoc, open-ended working group composed of Governments that would nominate experts in order to assist the Commission in the following tasks:

(a) To monitor and review the requirements, availability and adequacy of financial resources for the implementation of different clusters of Agenda 21, taking into account the multi-year thematic programme of work, as well as projects, programmes, activities and sustainable development strategies prepared by Governments, in order to provide a suitable and common basis for action on the part of all Governments, bilateral funding agencies and States members of the governing bodies of the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as multilateral regional and subregional development banks and funds dealing with the issues of environment and development;

(b) To monitor and analyse various factors that influence the flow of financial and economic resources, such as debt relief, terms of trade, commodity prices, market access and private foreign investment, as well as to review mechanisms for innovative financing in the context of paragraph 33.16 of Agenda 21, taking into account activities at the national level;

(c) To develop, on the basis of the above, a policy framework for the mobilization of financial resources towards a balanced implementation of all aspects of Agenda 21 that would, inter alia, assist Governments, where appropriate, to implement their sustainable development strategies (E/1993/25/Add.1, para. 61).

The Commission called on its Bureau to coordinate the work of the Working Group, as well as the inputs to its work from other experts in relevant fields. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources, support to the Working Group (E/1993/25/Add.1, para. 62).

Furthermore, it was agreed that the Commission would decide on the agenda and procedures for the Working Group, which would report its findings to the Commission (E/1993/25/Add.1, para. 63).

Pursuant to those decisions, the Bureau, in developing the present provisional agenda, has held consultations with all States members of the Commission and has considered inputs from several sources.

At its second session, the Commission reconfirmed the mandate of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance, as contained in the report on its first session (E/1993/25/Add.1, chap. I, para. 61); requested the Working Group, in carrying out its mandate to, inter alia, (i) focus more directly on the financial sources and mechanisms appropriate to sectoral issues under review by the Commission; (ii) develop a matrix of financial sources and mechanisms which could be applied to those sectors, and maintain the integrated approach; and (iii) pursue the study of selected innovative financing mechanisms, as well as of economic instruments; the Commission also requested the Working Group to involve more actively international financial institutions and other multilateral funding organizations and the private sector in its work, bearing in mind the need to bring together concrete projects and private actors (E/1994/33/Rev.1, chap. I, para. 216 (a)). In addition, the Commission decided that the Working Group would consider all issues related to the financial aspects of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (E/1994/33/Rev.1, chap. I, para. 217 (a)).

The Working Group, after the election of its officers, will adopt its agenda.

Items 2 to 6

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms for the financing of sustainable development

Item 7. Other matters

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

In accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session, the Working Group will report on its findings to the Commission at its third session.